

**Stage struck**

Post captain steps onto local theater stage to fulfill longtime interest

Page 24

Fort Riley Post

Squads square off

2 610th BSB teams meet on flag football gridiron

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**Around the Army****Korea:**

The Indianhead reported Aug. 25 that famed coach Mike Krzyzewski and Team U.S.A. visited Soldiers at Camp Casey during a practice scrimmage game at Hanson Field House Aug. 16.

Krzyzewski served as an artillery liaison officer in the 2nd Infantry Division and was an Eighth U.S. Army basketball player while stationed at Camp Pelham near the Demilitarized Zone in the early 1970s.

For more on this story and other 2nd Inf. Div. news, visit www-2id.korea.army.mil/news/article/@id+117 on the Web.

Fort Knox:

The Turret reported Sept. 14 that, in an effort to involve the youth at Fort Knox in community service, the local Red Cross chapter has committed to reestablishing a youth club.

The club is currently divided into two groups — one at the high school and one at Scott — with participants ranging from age 5 to 18.

The club is open to anyone living on Fort Knox.

For more on this story and other Fort Knox, Ky., news, visit www.thenewsenterprise.com/turret/ on the Web.

Fort Hood:

The Sentinel reported Sept. 14 that the ranks of Gold Star families, those who have lost loved ones in combat, are rising and Fort Hood is embracing them with their own building, the Gold Star Family Support Center.

The Gold Star Family Support Center will officially open with a ribbon cutting and open house Sept. 22. The ceremony will include representatives from Freedom Alliance, Ski 'n Scats, a summer camp that taught several Fort Hood Gold Star children how to water ski last month, III Corps and Fort Hood Commanding General Maj. Gen. Ray Olderno and other Fort Hood leaders and Gold Star family members.

For more on this story and other Fort Hood, Texas, news, visit militarynews.com/sentinel/ on the Web.

Stay in Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley. Tune in to Fort Riley cable channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. or watch the show at 5 a.m. every Saturday and at 11 a.m. most Saturdays on WBIC TV, Channel 13.

This week's show, which runs on the post's cable channel 2 Sept. 2 through Oct. 1, includes:

- A preview of Apple Day and post open house events
- A report on K-State's Fort Riley Day Sept. 9
- Two 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Soldiers receiving Purple Hearts
- The reorganization ceremony for 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, and
- The Fort Riley combatives tournament that selected a team to compete at the all-Army competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

Army insists on force protection

By Jim Garamone

AFPS

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — Army leaders are committed to ensuring Soldiers have the best force-protection capabilities possible, but also want to avoid giving Soldiers a false sense of security, service officials said Sept. 8.

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sorenson, the Army's deputy for acquisition and systems management, took exception to an NBC News report

that said the Army is not buying an Israeli system, called Trophy, that could protect Soldiers and their vehicles from rocket-propelled grenades. The report alleges the Army manipulated information in favor of a competing Raytheon system, called

Quick Kill.

The Israeli and Raytheon systems are designed to fire missiles that intercept RPGs in flight. The Israeli system may be six months ahead of the Raytheon system, but it has limitations. The NBC report made it sound as if the Army

refused to field a perfectly fine combat system that would save lives, officials said.

Sorenson said the system is not a "producible item." The Israelis have been working on the Trophy

See Protection, Page 3



Post/Murdoch

70th Engineers prepare for deployment

A Third Platoon, Company C, 70th Engineer Battalion Soldier probes gently for mines while participating in the battalion's Sapper Stakes training Sept. 15. The battalion is preparing for its 2007 deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

See story and photos on page 10

'Lucky charm' takes tough hit

Blast claims Soldier's foot

Editor's note: The following account is the personal story of a Fort Riley Soldier wounded during the last two months of his second deployment to Iraq. It reveals his personal strength in overcoming personal tragedy and provides some insight of the emotions Soldiers and their families experience as the United States fights the Global War on Terrorism.

By Staff Sgt. John Borders

Btry. B, 4th Bn., 1st FA

"Another anniversary, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, our birthdays and I'll be home again."

This is how my wife and I have handled our deployment countdowns. We agreed that it would be easier to use landmarks rather than trying to count down the days.

This would be my fourth combat deployment, the second to Iraq, in my 12-year career, so why should this one be any different. I missed the entire pregnancy of my son the first time I was deployed to Iraq and a short eight months later I was on my way back.

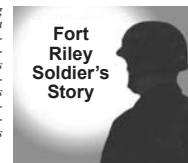
I didn't really have to go back. I could have gone on recruiting duty, but I wanted to stay with my men and try to finish up this important mission.

Back in Iraq

So, in the middle of February, we arrived in Taji, Iraq, and assumed control over the entry access point — not the most fulfilling and exciting duty on a deployment, but important just the same.

I spent the first four months talking to all the Soldiers who were patrolling and interacting with the Iraqi people and wondering when it would finally be my turn. Well, you know the old saying: "Ask and ye shall receive."

I was tasked to the Mission Training Team to help train the



Fort Riley Soldier's Story

Staff Sgt. John Borders

Age: 33

Duty position: Paladin Section Chief
Unit: Battery B, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery
Hometown: London, Ohio

5th Iraqi Army Infantry Battalion. I have to admit that was the first time I actually felt scared during this deployment. The insurgents would rather attack the Iraqi Army than any of the Coalition Forces.

That may sound kind of strange, but it is true. The reason? Now that the Iraqis have a volunteer Army they can quit as easily as they sign up, and after each attack some do quit.

But, after the first few battalion missions I accompanied, I realized how competent and motivated these men are, so I had no worries about conducting missions with them.

After three months, the Iraqi battalion was ordered to move to another forward operating base, and I returned to Battery B, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery.

Back with his men

On the brighter side, I was still going on missions and was back

See Soldier's story, Page 4

Combat Aviation Brigade gets 'big birds'

2 Chinooks arrive at Marshall Army Airfield

By Pfc. Nathaniel S. Smith

1st Inf. Div. PAO

The first of 12 CH-47 Chinook helicopters destined to become part of the 1st Infantry Division's new Combat Aviation Brigade forming on post arrived at Marshall Army Airfield Sept. 15.

The Chinook, piloted by Chief Warrant Officer Ahmad Upshaw, came from the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

The Chinook, which was first used by the United States during the Vietnam War, is a \$13 million troop and cargo transport helicopter that has proven so useful it is now used all over the world.

"It will increase the combat

multiplying force of the 1st ID," said Upshaw, a CH-47 pilot with the 1st Cav. Div. who has been piloting Chinooks for seven years. "The lift capability is tremendous."

The Chinook has proven to be a versatile craft, said Upshaw, who also has experience flying the UH-1 Huey Iroquois, OH-58 Kiowa and UH-60 Black Hawk.

The CH-47's arrival was highly anticipated, said Chief Warrant Officer Joshua Locke, a CH-47 pilot with the division's CAB. "Lots of pilots here haven't flown in a while," Locke said. "This provides more time to train up the crews and pilots before deployment."

Locke said the extra time commanders have training with the CH-47 will help them better understand the capabilities of the helicopter and therefore use it more efficiently.

Capabilities include a maximum cargo capacity of 50,000 pounds and three hooks that enable the transport of large equipment, such as "Humvees" and artillery pieces, by sling load.

The Chinook has a range of 2.5 to three hours flight time, about 230 miles, depending on the cargo. It can ascend to 20,000 feet. The flight time can be increased by carrying three additional fuel tanks in the cargo hold

See Chinooks, Page 2



Soldiers from Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Riley, Kan., work together to tie down rotor blades of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter that arrived Sept. 15 at Marshall Army Airfield. The Chinook can carry up to 31 fully equipped Soldiers.

1st Inf. Div. PAO/Smith





1st Inf. Div. PAO/Baack

Military Transition Team members attempt to quell initial outbursts of Iraqi villagers after a confrontation that resulted in two "dead" anti-Iraq forces members in a scenario during the MiTT group's capstone training event – their Mission Readiness Exercise – at an urban cluster site on post Sept. 7.



1st Inf. Div. PAO/Baack

With Military Transition Team members observing their every move, soldiers of the mock Iraqi Security Forces "stack and clear" while hunting down suspected anti-Iraq forces members in a scenario during the MiTT group's capstone training event – their Mission Readiness Exercise – at an urban cluster site on post Sept. 7.

Mock Iraqi forces play vital training role

By Spc. Stephen Baack
1st Inf. Div. PAO

Members of the mock Iraqi Security Forces have a critical job: react to enemy contact and dangerous situations – but not always in the best way.

How quickly and effectively their Military Transition Team advisors steer them in the right direction is the test. The mock ISF soldiers present the obstacles.

Their role was central to the scenarios comprising the MiTT members' culminating Mission Readiness Exercise at various mock Iraqi villages and locations on post Sept. 6-9.

The MRX had the TT advisors overseeing multiple missions, including a cordon-and-search exercise, responding to the "deaths" of ISF soldiers while pulling fixed-site security,

responding to a village mortar strike, checkpoint operations and others.

Day 1 included the cordon-and-search mission during which anti-Iraq forces had hidden themselves in a village after an attack. Members of the police force appeared to be helping the ISF, but were actually trying to steer them away from the culprits. It was the TT advisors' duty to make sure the ISF soldiers properly searched the village while sufficiently reacting to resistance.

During Day 2, the mayor of "Surdash" requested support from the ISF in response to mortar strikes within the village. Members of the ISF met with the mayor to offer their help in exchange for information. Once the ISF soldiers discovered the whereabouts of the AIF, the soldiers engaged them.

"When the (transition teams) came in, the ISF did what they were supposed to do," said Staff Sgt. Wade Bryant, liaison officer with 2nd Brigade, 91st Division (Training Support).

"After the meeting, they told them about the three individuals who came to the village that were suspected to be the cause of the mortar strike. The ISF came and they took over that. They killed two of them and detained one, taking him back to the (forward operating base). Overall the mission was pretty good, I think," Bryant said of the exercise.

The next scenario the same day set up a sniper attack at a traffic control point. In the scenario, sniper fire hit ISF soldiers, requiring care for the injured soldiers while providing perimeter security, hunting down the suspect and apprehending him.

"If you notice, I told one of the S3s to go and tell one of my Soldiers to go around the dead guy to try to grieve and pull away from their position," said Sgt. Luis Armijo, ISF member from 2nd Bde., 91st Div. (TS), and 6th Battalion commander for the ISF.

"We wanted to see what the transition teams were going to do, and they did what I wanted, meaning my brigade commander got their commander and told them, 'Look, we need to pull security,' and that's exactly what he did. He did his job," Armijo said.

Armijo, who has been an ISF operator since May, said one of his objectives is to make it difficult for the TT advisors because they will take on the same mission as soon as they reach Iraq.

"We were supposed to have faults in this mission," Armijo added. "The TT was supposed to

come and correct it. They came in, they did correct it, they advised my commander, my commander advised my NCOIC and my OIC of this position here. So, it kind of worked out."

Throughout the action, the LNOs who evaluate the advisors' performance take up separate positions so they can each see different parts of how the scenarios unfold.

"From my perspective, the TT teams have responded pretty well, given that I was in the wood line with the sniper team," said Staff Sgt. Samuel Tinsley, LNO from 2nd Battalion, 362nd Regiment.

"I can't really see the TCP up here, but they reacted pretty well and took proper cover from what I could see from the wood line," Tinsley added. "They came up, the TTs also properly made sure that the individual was searched

and the area was secure."

Tinsley said there were common mistakes that this group didn't make, such as getting into other soldiers' fields of fire.

"Initially, they came in, they assessed what was wrong and the process of correcting was good," said Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Roy, an LNO who was close to the TCP action. "Then they received sniper fire – a lot of hesitation. First time, it's going to be a natural reaction. That's understandable. There was a lot of confusion going on on the ground. I think they handled it pretty good."

Roy emphasized that although they were somewhat slow at first about assessing the battle damage, everyone should understand that the TT advisors are new at this. "I think they did OK," Roy said.

Chinooks

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of the aircraft. Each tank adds about two hours, Upshaw said.

Equipment include a radar altitude holding device that allows the helicopter to fly more smoothly over a water surface.

It also has a heading select feature that allows the pilot to auto-

matically adjust the heading of the aircraft by turning a dial.

The CH-47's crew consists of at least two pilots and a flight engineer, but it can also have a crew chief and a door gunner in combat environments.

The Chinook is going to be a vital asset to accomplishing mis-

sions on deployment, said Spc. Alexander Rolinski, a crewmember assigned to the CAB.

"We'll be able to work hand-in-hand with the infantry," Rolinski said. "Once they know the capabilities of the Chinook, missions will get accomplished much more efficiently."

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Post, Army news briefly

4th Cav Soldier found dead

A Fort Riley Soldier was found dead in his barracks room Sept. 12.

His senior noncommissioned officers at Fort Riley found the body of Spc. Joseph D. Knight, 20, of Texarkana, Ark. The chemical operations specialist was assigned to Troop B, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry.

Knight joined the Army in October 2003 and came to Fort Riley in May 2006.

The incident is under investigation by the Criminal Investigation Division.

Post ceremony honors retirees

Thirteen retiring Soldiers will be honored 9 a.m. Sept. 27 at the post's monthly retirement ceremony on Ware Parade Field. Retiring are:

First Sgt. Marty J. Diskin, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor
Master Sgt. Vincent D. Johnson, 24th Transportation Company

Sgt. 1st Class Sallie L. Brown, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade

Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone A. Eady, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher M. Nagy, 89th Regional Readiness Command

Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth D. Volkart, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry

Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Smith Jr., Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division

Staff Sgt. Lolita J. Worthy, 1st Replacement Company

Staff Sgt. Gwendolyn A. Kemp, Medical Department Activity

Staff Sgt. Trina R. Avery, HHC, 1st Inf. Div.

Staff Sgt. Douglas S. Corbett, 1st Bn., 13th Armor

Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Jacobs, 125th Forward Support Battalion

Staff Sgt. Warren D. Fulwiley, 1st Bn., 13th Armor

Special day to update retirees

Fort Riley's annual Retiree Appreciation Day will be 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 20 at Riley's Conference Center.

The day will include speakers offering updates on military issues and growth at Fort Riley, a health fair and lunch.

The event is open and free to all service retirees in the area. Those wishing to eat lunch should call 239-3320.

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Officer system changes to grow adaptive leaders

By Lt. Col. **Maura Gillen**
U.S. Army HRC

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — The Army announced Sept. 5 a revision of the Officer Personnel Management System that will align branches and functional areas under three functional categories.

The new functional categories are: Maneuver, fires and effects; operations support; and force sustainment, which includes the special branches. Functional categories are further divided into functional groups that link branches and functional areas with similar battlefield functions.

Lists of branches and functional areas by functional group and functional category are available at the HRC-Alexandria Web site, www.hrc.army.mil, under Officer Personnel Management Directorate.

"We're building on a proven system, but adapting to the emerging realities of the 21st century security environment and the capabilities required of a campaign-quality, joint and expeditionary Army," said Col. Pat Stallings, chief of the OPMS Task Force, U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

The OPMS Functional Design, announced via an All-Army Active message, is effective Sept. 5, but most officers will not see an impact until spring, Stallings said.

HRC assignment officers will begin identifying a small number of officers for broader assignment next summer, with notifications beginning as early as January. The lieutenant colonel selection board that convenes in February will be

the first to use the functional categories as promotion categories.

HRC will announce procedural changes for officer evaluations (report and support form preparation and processing) and functional designation boards via MILPER messages.

"The task force re-established the periodic review process to recommend changes required for management and development of the officer corps, to develop skills required, today and tomorrow and group skills functionally to meet Army requirements," Stallings said.

The revised OPMS design, he said, is better aligned to the critical joint functions required of the Army than the four career fields of OPMS 3 and provides broader officer development. "This design directly supports the Army's strategy of growing adaptive leaders," he said.

Stallings noted there is no longer a "3" or "III" after "OPMS," it's an evolutionary system, without numbered versions.

"We are not changing the core features of the OPMS system that make it so good today," Stallings noted. "We will continue to develop and promote functional specialists, and we will maintain our absolute focus on developing officers' warfighting skills in their branch."

Reserve-component leaders are committed to the same objectives for growing 21st century officers, Stallings said, and are reviewing the functionally aligned OPMS design to determine applicability within their personnel management systems.

Protection continued from page 1

system for 10 or 11 years, Sorenson said.

"If this thing was ready to go, my question would be, why wasn't it on the particular tanks that went into Lebanon?" he said.

No Israeli Merkava tanks carried the Trophy system, he said.

Other problems include the fact that the system has no reloading capability. Once it fires, that side of the vehicle is vulnerable.

That brings up another shortcoming: the Trophy can only be mounted to protect one axis. This means officials would have to mount multiple missile systems on every vehicle.

System boasts 360-degree capability

The Quick Kill missile has 360-degree capability and a reload capability.

Another worry is collateral damage, Sorenson said. "In a tight urban area, the Trophy system may take out the RPG, but we may kill 20 people in the process. That is a concern we have that we haven't fully evaluated."

The general said there also is confusion on the contract award.

"It was awarded by the lead system integrator and the government team," Sorenson said.

"It was not done by Raytheon. There was confusion in the report that the Army was cooking the books and which was absolutely false, blatantly false," he said.

Sorenson said the Army has standards of performance for force protection capabilities.

"These have not only been dictated by lessons learned in theater, but all the work we have done heretofore on all the systems prior to this," he said.

"We will not put anything out there that has not demonstrated that it is capable of doing what it is alleged to do," he insisted.

The bottom line is that, if a system "does not have the 'Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval,' it does not go forward," Sorenson said.

The general said that every Soldier lost is a tragedy. But, of the more than 1,400 Soldiers killed in Iraq, most died from improvised explosive devices.

A total of 148 Soldiers have been lost due to an RPG or an RPG and other weapons. Sixty-three Soldiers died by RPG only,

he said.

Broken down further, 10 Soldiers died as a result of an RPG hit to a U.S. combat system — an Abrams tank, Bradley fighting vehicle, Stryker wheeled vehicle or M-113 armored personnel carrier.

Systems already provide protection

"The reason that is so low is that those combat systems already have good force protection systems applied," Sorenson said. There are reactive armor tiles on the Bradley. Officials added slat-armor protection to the Stryker, and all combat vehicles have protection built into them, officials said.

HOUSE FILL AD

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KANSAS PRESS
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Post, Army news briefly

Post to turn off air conditioning

Weather permitting, building air conditioning will be turned off beginning Sept. 25 and be done in the following order: Admin buildings, barracks, bachelor enlisted quarters, bachelor officer quarters having individual units, the 8000 aream dining facilities and community buildings.

Heating systems are scheduled to be turned on starting Oct. 10 in the following order: barracks, bachelor officer quarters, bachelor enlisted quarters, the 8000 area, community buildings, admin buildings, dining facilities and motor pools.

The heating and cooling systems in chapels, child development, medical and dental buildings will be maintained as appropriate. Family housing occupants control their own heat and air conditioning systems as desired. The authorized temperature for the heating season is 65 to 70 degrees.

For more information, call Steve Fief at 239-3908.

Motorcycle trainer available

Fort Riley now has a full-time qualified Motorcycle Safety Foundation instructor, Chris Maurich. Maurich instructs the Experienced Rider Course and the Basic Rider Course for street bikes.

Starting this month, a Basic Rider Course and an Experienced Rider Course will be conducted weekly. The Basic Rider Course will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday at Building 407.

Motorcycles and helmets will be provided, but attendees need to wear long clothing, over-the-ankle shoes and full-fingered gloves.

The Experienced Rider Course will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Friday at Building 407.

Attendees must bring their own equipment for the Experienced Rider Course.

For more information, call Maurich on Mondays and Thursdays at 239-8499.

Anyone interested in attending this training should contact their battalion schools NCO.

Soldier's story

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with my men. I got to spend a lot of time catching up on everything I missed while working with the Iraqi army.

We got frequent intelligence about weapons caches, suspected insurgents and safe houses and improvised explosive device makers. The only trouble was, every time I went, we came up with nothing.

Terrorist antibiotic

The other two platoons got hit with IEDs. Luckily, they sustained no injuries. Then, during a mission when I was off, my platoon got hit with an IED. In fact, it was my own gun truck.

Again, thankfully, no serious injuries occurred. I felt like I was the terrorist/insurgent antibiotic. Whenever I go, nothing happens, no sort of adrenaline rush for anyone. The intelligence doesn't pan out and there are no attacks.

The more missions I go on, the more this turns out to be true. It gets so bad that my battery commander was going on and on about this great tip to go get a known insurgent in our area, until he sees me walking into the parking lot with all of my gear.

"You're going?" he asked. "Of course I am, sir. Why?"

"DAMN IT!" he said. He knew we wouldn't find anything but also knows we still had to go to make sure. I began to be known as the mission curse on one hand and the good luck charm on the other.

Home for R&R

After five months of this, I went home on R&R (rest and recuperation). My first day home I got a call that one of my fellow noncommissioned officers is in Landstuhl Regional Medical Center after being hit by an IED. I had known him for six years. We played softball together.

Two days later I find out that one of the platoon leaders has been evacuated to Germany as well, also injured in an IED attack. I felt like it was all my fault for not being there to protect these guys.

I knew there was nothing I could have done to change it, but I was the good luck charm. So all I could really do was make the most of my R&R and return to my unit rejuvenated and ready to go to work.

"Two more months, Baby. I can do that standing my head," I assured my wife.

She agreed but told me to be extra careful the last couple of

months. She told me that she had been having some uncomfortable feelings about the whole deployment and didn't want anything to happen this close to redeploying home.

"Fear not, my love; nothing ever happens when I go out," I assured her.

She smiled and felt a little better, telling me to make sure that it stayed that way.

Upon my return to Camp Taji, I found that the transfer of authority had been set and the redeployment schedule had been finalized. Shortly after Christmas, we moved into the Surge housing area.

I felt, as the battery good luck charm, that I should go on every mission assigned to my platoon. I would have hated for anyone to get injured two weeks before they were slotted to go home.

On Jan. 5, 2006, we were tasked to ensure that the route for the afternoon TOA patrol was secure. Just before the start of our mission, the commander informed us there was an additional task for our patrol. We were to try to locate a mosque in our area that was a suspected insurgent safe house.

Patrol area known for IEDs

He showed us the general vicinity where the mosque was supposed to be. It was in an area was notorious for having IEDs. Everyone seemed to feel a lot better about the situation once someone mentioned, "We have our good luck charm going with us though, Staff Sgt. Borders is right here."

We all seemed to laugh it off a little and went to our trucks to put on our gear and line up to roll out.

BANG!

I woke up and remember being told I was in Balad, but I couldn't tell you why if you offered me a million dollars. The next time that I remember opening my eyes I was in Landstuhl, Germany.

I still didn't know what had happened, but I knew that it must have been bad if I was in Germany. I remember being asked if I

wanted to talk to my wife, but I was in too much pain to do so.

I also recall asking a nurse if my guys were OK, but I can't tell you to this day if she ever answered me.

The next thing I knew, I was being prepared for transport to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

I woke up at least three times on the bus trip to the flight line and couldn't believe how long it was taking to get just a few miles down the road. During the flight, I remember nodding off and waking up constantly.

At some point I looked at my legs to see why I was in so much pain. I saw weird looking metal fixtures on both legs. I couldn't see any real damage, but if these external fixators were on me, then it must be worse than it looked.

Home, but not really

My first memory, upon arrival at WRAMC, is of one of the social workers asking me if I knew where I was and if I needed anything from her right now. Without having a second thought, I let her know that I needed to see my wife. She said she needed her contact information in order to make that happen.

I gave the social worker my wife's name, Social Security Number, home phone number, cell phone number and home address. I also gave her my parents' contact information because they were between Fort Riley and WRAMC.

After about 18 hours — what seemed like an eternity, I woke up to find my loving wife finally at my side. I asked two questions I needed her to answer right away: I had to know if anyone else was hurt and how badly, and I needed to know how bad my injuries really were.

I was glad to hear I was the only casualty from the IED. Also, lucky for me, Mollie had just graduated from Kansas State University, Pre-Med. We promised to never hold anything back when we got married, and she held true to her word at the scariest moment in our lives.

I had broken the tibia and fibula in both legs, was missing four

inches of tibia in the left leg, had multiple fractures in both ankles and the left knee, two open fractures of my left ulna, contusions on both lungs, some lacerations on my liver and numerous small burns and shrapnel wounds.

I apologized frequently for scaring her so badly and for not coming home unhurt as I had promised.

She was just happy to have me back alive.

Decision needed

After being stabilized in the intensive care unit for about a week, I was moved to Ward 58, where I met my orthopedic surgeon. He informed Mollie and me that my right leg was in really bad shape and we had two options: We could do a fusion or an amputation.

When I heard the word, "amputation," I began to cry and shake my head.

I told him that I don't care what it takes; I want to keep my foot. He showed me a 3-D model of what my foot looked like at the time and what he was going to have to do to fuse my ankle. It was a total mess but what did I care; I wanted to keep my foot.

The doctor informed us that, with a fused ankle, I might not be able to run ever again, and I would only be able to walk on fairly level ground.

"That's fine with me. I just don't want to lose my foot," I told him.

Fusion effort begins

For five weeks I went into the operating room every other day for wash outs to try to salvage my right leg. After each surgery, my fevers would spike as high as 104 degrees and I was in a tremendous amount of pain no matter how many pain medications they put me on.

The orthopedic team would come in and tell me how good every operation went and that they were getting a little bit closer to being able to do the fusion, but it could take up to a year because I also had a significant amount of infection in my right leg that needed to be cleared up before doing the fusion.

After the fifth week, my ortho-

pedic team had another model of my right foot made to show me the progress. My surgeon held up the first model and the new one side by side. I couldn't tell which one looked worse.

I turned my head and started crying again, shook my head and decided right then and there that I was going to go with the amputation instead.

Mollie saw the look on my face and kicked everyone out of the room so we could discuss what I was thinking about doing. We agreed that amputation was the best course of action. I needed to be able to run around with our kids and teach them to play soccer, baseball, basketball and whatever else they might want to do in their lives.

So I let the surgeon, my parents, Brittany (our 12-year-old daughter), and Xander (our 2-year-old son) know what we had decided.

Recovery really begins

Within 48 hours of my amputation being closed, I was able to sleep through the night with no more levers and I started to get my sense of humor back. I know that electing to amputate was the right decision for me.

I am frequently asked about my plans for the future and if I would still pass over recruiting duty to go back to Iraq knowing I was going to get injured?

To answer the first question: I am planning to stay on active duty in the Army until I retire with 20-plus years.

As for the second question: 100 percent, absolutely, positively, with out a doubt, yes. I believe in the mission our troops are doing. I am proud to have served with a great unit and know that I have been able to do a little bit of good for the Iraqi people.

Like Garth Brooks said, "I could have missed the pain, but I'd have had to miss the dance."

Editor's note: Fort Riley Soldiers and families who would like to share stories of their GWOT experiences are encouraged to contact the Post editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or 239-8854.

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Commentary

Friday, September 22, 2006

Fort Riley Post

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Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

The remains of a 1st Infantry Division Soldier killed in World War I were recently uncovered and will be returned to the United States for burial. Why should the U.S. continue searching for servicemembers killed in action?



"For us, it is extremely important for two reasons: one, for families of ones lost; and two, it's important because that's part of the Code of Conduct."

Maj. Leslie Alford
Division Inspector General
HHC, 1st Infantry Division



"I feel it's important due to people's families involved. It's good to know that they'll have a final resting place. It goes back to the motto 'leave no man behind.'"

Sgt. Brian English
Aviation
2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation



"It is important because we have to bring our Soldiers home. We leave no man behind."

Sgt. Bert Reynolds
Crew chief
3rd Battalion, 1st Aviation



"It's extremely important. As we all know, a fallen comrade is something we never forget. For our country to continue to search for lost loved ones is the honorable thing to do."

Staff Sgt. Tony Setzer
Chaplain's assistant
1st Brigade



"It is very important because families need closure, and it proves the pride we have in our country and our Soldiers."

Nick Theis
AAFES concessionaire

Letters to the editor:

The Post welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not contain any libelous statements or personal accusations. They must include the writer's full name and a phone number where he or she can be reached. Letters may be edited to fit space but never edited to change the writer's viewpoint. Send letters to mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or fax them to 239-2592.

Awareness key to preventing tragedies

By Charles E. Jackson
Training coordinator

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Suicide is something different to each person you visit with, based on their attitude about taking one's life. That attitude may range from an unspeakable taboo to a conflict of wrong or right, sinful or moral, just of unjust, selfish or unselfish.

What seems to be a common thread agreed upon by most is that those at risk of taking their life have reached a point that living life has become so painful it exceeds the fear of death, and most people at risk view suicide as a sole means to end the pain or as a quick solution to a perceived unresolvable problem.

Those at risk are suffering and feel totally alone and without resources to resolve the overpowering issues of life.

Even those that are at risk of suicide would rather live than die. So goes the battle of ambivalence. It is a continuous state of conflict over living and dying

and, without assistance, for many the battle ends in tragedy.

Suicide takes the lives of more than 30,000 Americans every year.

Every 18 minutes, another life is lost to suicide.

Every day, 80 Americans take their lives and more than 1,900 Americans visit the emergency departments for self-inflicted injury.

... Kansas Public Radio had a news story Sept. 5 about an older Chinese man in the Shanghai River Bridge looking for what he called "those that have a walk without life," those that have come to the bridge with the sole purpose to end their lives by jumping to the yellow waters far below.

He has rescued hundreds of individuals at the risk of his own life as he struggles to pull many from their fatal attempts.

He said that he has seen many fall to their death that he was not able to reach in time or some that he had saved but just moments later, when not looking, they would jump to their death.

This old man is a self-made gatekeeper with the love and concern for others that allows him to be that important connection to life for those who are desperate and feel they have nothing left to live for.

With a little training, we too can sharpen our eye that we may see those who have that "walk without life" and know how to reach out and assist those at risk.

The suicide rate in the Army is increasing and we very well could have many of our Soldiers and family members having their own personal struggles and who may be contemplating their own fatal solution to life's problems.

We are, however, more fortunate that those in China because

we have many trained gatekeepers at Fort Riley. They have been trained in the skills of intervention to assist those who may be at risk of suicide.

Fort Riley's Suicide Prevention Program presented two, two-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skill Training courses Sept. 7-8 and 11-12 that certified gatekeepers. Each unit on post is required to have two ASIST certified gatekeepers per platoon.

... The unit gatekeeper is a commander's resource to be used when an individual at risk has been discharged from Mental Health Services or the hospital emergency room and returned to the unit. The gatekeeper should be involved with the returning Soldier as a support or resource to assist them to remain risk free.

Units or directorates needing to schedule personnel for the ASIST certified gatekeeper training or for suicide prevention awareness training should contact the Suicide Prevention Program representatives at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building, 7264, at 239-9435 or 239-1012.

Letter to editor

Chance to speak worth accepting

It is not every day that Soldiers have the opportunity to share their experiences with college youth. So, when they do, many times it is a learning experience for both the Soldiers and the students.

On Sept. 11, I and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Vars with the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, were invited to speak about our Operation Iraqi Freedom III experiences with the students and faculty of the Social Sciences Department at Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson, Kan.

The Social Sciences Department at Hutchinson Community College holds an annual lecture series that explores different topics each month. We were the speakers for September.

College students have always been known to be free thinkers and very opinionated. I was not sure initially how the students would react to our presentation.

Upon walking into the room, I felt that all the attention was straight on Vars and me. From that point on, it was evident that they were interested in what we had to say.

I was pleased to see that the

students were very respectful and receptive to the information. As evidenced by their many questions, the students and faculty seemed to be thoroughly engaged by the experience.

As a master gunner, Vars thrived during the presentation. His personal skills and knowledge of much of the equipment in the Army seemed to have the students holding onto his every word.

The Social Sciences Department chair, Hence Parson, said we did an extraordinary job with the presentation on and about the culture of Iraq and speaking about our day-to-day experiences as Soldiers in that area of the world.

He also said that kind of information is something that is lacking in the mass media reports today.

Parson made it clear that he would want this topic to be explored again and again.

We took it as an honor to speak to the students and would do it again if the opportunity presents itself.

1st Lt. John McFarland
2nd Bn., 34th Armor

Need to call for help?

Fort Riley domestic violence and sexual assault response line (24 hours) - (785) 307-1373
Fort Riley Victim Advocate Program - (785) 239-9435
Chaplain - (785) 239-4357
Irwin Army Community Hospital emergency room - (785) 239-7777
Military Police (785) 239-MPMP (6767)
Local Police (on and off post) - 911

2nd Louie

By Bob Rosenburgh



FORT RILEY POST

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Your opinion is important to the Post editor and staff. Please take a moment to tell us how well we are doing our job of keeping you informed about what is happening at Fort Riley. Fax the form to (785) 239-2592 or clip and mail this form to Editor, Public Affairs Office, Building 405, Fort Riley, KS 66442, or drop the form at building 405. You may also send your opinions to the staff by e-mail at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil.

What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas): _____



2nd Bn., 16th Inf., 'Rangers' face certification

Lieutenant chronicles experience learning how to be an effective platoon leader

By 2nd Lt. Eric Eichbauer
2nd Bn., 16th Inf.

I could see the concertina wire about 100 meters in front of me as I ran. Just a few more strides and I would be there.

Looking down, I checked my cargo pocket to make sure my breach gloves were still there.

The other team got set, and it was time to move. I lifted myself from the ground and dashed to get into the next prone position.

As my squad fired at the enemy in bunkers up ahead to cover my movement, my body shifted back off balance.

I tried to dive into a prone posture, looking more like a ball player sliding into home plate with one leg forward and one foot back.

Pain shot through my ankle as it dragged under my body. It was just a small sprain; I still had enough to make it to the wire.

Finally in position, I used my gloves to hold the concertina wire so my team leader could cut a breach in it. Suddenly, the most annoying sound blared from my Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System gear; signaling I had just been shot.

Everyone who died during this exercise died because someone didn't do their job," said Lt. Col. Ralph L. Kauzlarich, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, commander, during the After Action Review.

I thought to myself: "I probably died because of my lack of coordination."

The 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., "Rangers" reactivated at Fort Riley as a light infantry battalion. Since then, the unit has been striving to create a culture that embodies a warrior spirit. To do that, the "Rangers" understand the importance of leaders who instill it.

Sept 5 through 8, the battalion conducted a Platoon Leadership



2nd Bn., 16th Inf. photo

Participants in the 2nd Bn., 16th Inf., Platoon Leader Certification Program, run the last phase of the training -- a 9-mile run from their field location to Custer Hill.

Certification Program, with participants consisting primarily of platoon leaders and platoon sergeants.

It was kind of a Ranger huddle to facilitate talks on leadership, planning, tactics, relationships between platoon leaders and platoon sergeant and the standards leaders should operate within.

A 6-mile run preceded the first day's classroom discussions about the theories of command and control in a platoon. To put these ideas into practice, participants would plan, scheme and propose different ways of setting conditions that would give a platoon element success in combat.

Ultimately an infantryman has one true classroom: the field. On

the second day, that's where the leaders headed. They spent the day training on reflexive fire and clearing rooms, important skills and tactics, considering that most missions today take place in urban terrain.

After going over the procedures for clearing rooms, the Soldiers loaded Universal Training Munitions (colored war tipped rounds), into their weapons and began putting mental lessons to physical practice.

"Clear the corner, not the front of the room," a noncommissioned officer observer corrected. He told my fire team to "Go back and do it over." We did it over -- several times -- as the rest

of the participants would until day's end.

Trainers stressed more than tactics that day. The group of leaders also considered the impact a platoon leader/platoon sergeant relationship can have on Soldiers.

They were told that, like a marriage, the platoon leader/platoon sergeant relationship is crucial to the effectiveness of a platoon, especially because missions today are conducted on a platoon level. It's the first time an officer and non commissioned officer work together as a team in the infantry.

Placing a lieutenant with little experience over a seasoned NCO can create a potentially tense leadership relationship. When the leaders fight, the Soldiers suffer, just as children do when their parents fight, the platoon leaders and platoon sergeants were told.

The battalion commander and command sergeant major spoke throughout the day about the roles each should play and how essential each part is in a platoon. It is a relationship that continues throughout an extended military career, and they drew correlations to it with the relationship they have with each other as an officer/NCO command team.

"Reveille, wake up," I shouted, when the time came for day three of the training to begin.

After some eggs and coffee, everyone came together to form a platoon element, ready to conduct an attack on a group of enemy bunkers. The training consisted of a day and night iteration. The "Rangers" would run through the actions it takes to overcome enemy bunkers, and everyone talked about planning, tactics, and ways to improve.

In the end, attacking a group of bunkers was the medium used to bring everyone together, putting leadership and followership into action.

At roughly 11:30 pm, and after the night attack on the bunkers, we all gathered in a tent to watch

a movie, in French, no less. We read the English subtitles as we watched "The Battle of Algiers," trying to draw parallels between our current situation in the Global War on Terror and the French conflict with terrorists in the 1950s and 1960s.

The French overcame that conflict.

As I struggled to stay awake after a long day, I started to understand what the battalion commander was trying to say -- this isn't the first time there has been a conflict like this, and it can be won.

Morning arrived and brought with it the time for a much-anticipated 9-mile run. It would be a long haul, but the final destination would be "home," followed by a shower and final talk about being the perfect platoon leader and platoon sergeant.

"The leaders I'm trying to produce are leaders that are proactive, leaders that can think on their own, can walk into any situation and figure out the best way in a positive manner to problem solve," Kauzlarich said.

"I want them to have an experience, so when a situation arises, they can reach into their kit bag and say, 'This worked for me once, let me try it this way,'" he added.

In the end, the experience wasn't really for us; it was for the Soldiers we were to lead.

Platoon leaders steer the wheel. Platoon sergeants power us like an engine, but without wheels -- our Soldiers, we will never reach our destination.

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Courts-martial find Soldiers guilty over past 4 months

Staff Judge Advocate

Eleven Soldiers at Fort Riley have been convicted by courts-martial in the past few months for crimes ranging from theft to drugs to indecent acts with a child.

Pvt. Mitchell Ryden was tried at a Special Court-Martial Sept. 8 and found guilty of two specifications of absence without leave, one specification of willful disobedience of a noncommissioned officer, one specification of wrongful appropriation and one specification of wrongful use of marijuana.

The military judge sentenced him to forfeit \$849 pay per month for six months, to be confined for six months and to be discharged from the service with a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Pfc. Aldo Santillana was tried at a Special Court-Martial Aug. 30 and found guilty of one specification of absence from his unit.

The military judge sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of E1, to forfeit \$849 pay per month for five months, to be confined for 135 days and to be discharged from the service with a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Spec. Jonathan Player was tried at a General Court-Martial Aug. 30 and found guilty of one specification of wrongful possession of marijuana, one specification of wrongful use of cocaine and two specifications of wrongful distribution of cocaine.

The military judge sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of E1, to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for 33 months and to be discharged from the service with a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Spec. James Huffine was tried at a General Court-Martial Aug. 25 and found guilty of one specification of wrongful possession of

marijuana, one specification of wrongful possession of cocaine and one specification of wrongful use of cocaine.

The military judge sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of E1, to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for nine months and to be discharged from the service with a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Staff Sgt. David Chilson was tried at a General Court-Martial Aug. 10 and found guilty of one specification of larceny of an automobile and one specification of willfully and maliciously burning an automobile with the intent to defraud the insurer.

The military panel sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of E1, to forfeit \$1,273 pay per month for four months and to be confined for 120 days.

Pfc. Barbarita Montoya was tried at a Special Court-Martial July 28 and found guilty of one specification of conspiracy, one specification of wrongful use of a Schedule I Controlled Substance, one specification of assault, one specification of burglary and one specification of failure to go to appointed place of duty.

The military panel sentenced her to be reduced to the grade of E1, to be confined for 60 days and to be discharged from the service with a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Spec. Thomas Cortez was tried at a General Court-Martial July 26 and found guilty of two specifications of wrongful possession of child pornography.

The military judge sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of E1, to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for two years and to be discharged from the service with a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Sgt. James Fowler was tried at a General Court-Martial July 14

and found guilty of four specifications of indecent acts with a child.

The military panel sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of E1, to be confined for 10 years and to be discharged from the service with a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Sgt. Raymundo Bernal Jr. was tried at a General Court-Martial July 10 and found guilty of eight specifications of false official statement, five specifications of sale of military property, two specifications of larceny of military property and one specification of mail fraud.

The military judge sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of E1, to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for 35 months and to be discharged from the service with a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Pvt. William B. Hendry was tried at a General Court-Martial June 28 and found guilty of one specification of flight from apprehension; one specification of larceny of an automobile, a cell phone and a coat; and one specification of larceny of clothing.

The military judge sentenced him to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for 72 months and to be discharged from the service with a Dishonorable Discharge.

Spec. Cecil D. Farrell was tried at a General Court-Martial June 28 and found guilty of one specification of conspiracy to commit wrongful distribution of marijuana and one specification of wrongful distribution of marijuana.

The military judge sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of E2, to forfeit \$500 pay per month for two months, to be restricted to the limits of Fort Riley for a period of two months and to perform hard labor without confinement for two months.

Battalion runs with history

'Iron Rangers' add half-track to unit's outings

By Capt. Jason O'Neal
1st Bn., 16th Inf.

About 60 years ago, "Iron Rangers" could be seen around a World War II-era half-track while deployed to the forests and fields of Europe.

Today, that half-track is often seen surrounded by 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, "Iron Rangers" who will deploy to the battlefields of Iraq and who will be training other Soldiers for deployment to Iraq.

The history of the "Iron Rangers" is long and distinguished, but the battalion's recent history is different than anything that came before. Today, the "Iron Rangers" are being asked to go to a foreign country, protect civilians, secure convoys and close with and destroy an enemy that doesn't wear uniforms and doesn't play by any rules.

The "Iron Rangers" are trained and cross-trained on more weapons and equipment than any Soldiers in the history of the Army. They are trained to



who fought and died in Europe and Africa. Their mission will be training Soldiers over a short 60-day period to go to Iraq or Afghanistan to teach and mentor soldiers of those countries on how to fight and defend their citizens against those who would steal the freedom they have been given.

When the new "Iron Rangers" recently ran together with the refurbished half-track in their midst, it gave all who saw them a look at history in motion — today's Soldiers building on their battalion's heritage created by Soldiers of old.

"Iron Rangers" of the 1st Bn., 16th Inf., participate in a recent battalion run that included the refurbished half-track the unit keeps in perfect operating condition.

1st Bn., 16th Inf., photo





Post, Army news briefly

ATV, dirt bike training offered

The Installation Safety Office continues to coordinate All Terrain Vehicle Training and Dirt Bike Training. These courses are conducted in Wakefield, Kan.

During warm weather, the training takes place from 8 a.m. to noon; in cooler months the training takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All training equipment is provided by the contractor. Attendees are required to wear long sleeve shirt and pants, over-the-ankle shoes and full-fingered gloves.

Soldiers, and family members may attend the training. The Installation Safety Office covers training costs.

Enrollment is coordinated through battalion schools non-commissioned officers.

Army offers \$1,000 reward

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the larceny of a Samsung 50-inch plasma TV, serial number PPM50H3QX/XAA, Smart Symposium monitor, serial number DTF-510AUB01, and Samsung speakers, serial number 5FCFA008311.

The government property was stolen between 11 a.m. on July 26 and 4:30 p.m. July 25 from the Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, conference room on Fort Riley.

Anyone with information is urged to call Special Agent Steven F. Hickmott at 239-3308 or the Fort Riley military police at 239-6767.

Laundry cleans CIF equipment

The laundry Drop Off/Pick Up Point for services provided by PENN Enterprises, Inc. is located at Building 229, the old commissary, on Custer Avenue. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

These services are offered to all military personnel for cleaning of most Central Issue Facility items and are turned around within three days.

When CIF items are cleaned using PENN's services, a clearing Soldier need only present their laundry receipt in order for CIF to automatically accept the equipment.

4th IBCT goes digital in field

By *Spec. Shaina Howard*
1st Inf. Div. PAO

For two weeks, the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team participated in an exercise to help the brigade establish a digital tactical operations center.

"By doing that, we have to establish communications to national databases and distribute that to the battalion (Tactical Operations Centers)," said Maj. Bruce Mumford, the brigade's communications officer.

While conducting the DIGEX, Soldiers used satellites, computer servers and the Army Battle Command Systems. The equipment helps a military organization capture all the information needed from national databases so it can be distributed to lower echelons.

For Soldiers to be familiar with the equipment used during the exercise, they received extensive training before the DIGEX.

A series of classes prepared the brigade for this exercise by familiarizing Soldiers with new equipment and the various systems to be used, Mumford said.

"We were prepared (in my section) because we had a contractor come in to give us classes on the new servers," said Cpl. Julian Spottenbear, information technology specialist with Headquarters

and Headquarters Company.

Most of the computer systems used in the DIGEX are new to the Army, Spottenbear said. The exercise helped Soldiers learn how to use the equipment in a field environment.

"We have a lot of new Soldiers coming in from (Advanced Individual Training), and it helps them get an idea of what they are about to get into, the kind of environment we will be in and the things they need to know to be ready for, should we deploy," Spottenbear said.

The idea behind the digital TOC is to leverage information to ensure the commander gets to "see first and understand first," Mumford said. "By leveraging that information so we can see first and understand first, we can make sure the warfighter down in the trenches can act first and win decisively," he explained.

For such an exercise to be well-executed, a "total force package effort" must be made, Mumford said. That means the command group and staff participate in the DIGEX to ensure the Soldiers have all the right hardware, software and training required to make the systems work.

The DIGEX helped prepare the leaders and Soldiers of 4th IBCT for the brigade's field training exercise scheduled for October.



1st Inf. Div./Howard

Soldiers with the 4th IBCT participate in a two-week long digital exercise where they set up a digital Tactical Operations Center and tested the digital equipment the brigade has been issued.

DoD begins review of military awards

Department of Defense

The Department of Defense has begun a comprehensive review of military awards and decorations in order to ensure policies are consistent with the evolving nature of warfare.

This review will lead to an administrative revision of Department of Defense Instruction 1348.33-M, the Manual of Military Decorations and Awards.

A working group consisting of representatives from each service, the joint staff and the Institute of Heraldry will form the core of the comprehensive review effort.

This comprehensive review of military awards is expected to

continue over the next six to eight months and will involve but not be limited to the following:

- Honor and valor awards with particular focus on clarity of criteria and processes.
- The "V" device and the Purple Heart medals in eliminating disparate qualification criteria among the military services.
- Expeditionary medals in regard to how the theatre of operations is defined.
- Iraqi and Afghanistan campaign medals with regard to subsequent awards of these campaign medals, with a goal of appropriately recognizing service over multiple tours in those theatres of operations.

What is your unit doing in the field?

The Post wants to publicize training activities, especially those with a new approach, new equipment or new procedures. Call the editor at 239-8854. Let's talk.

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Reservists train to prep military teams

'Roughrider' battalion spends 2 weeks honing transition mission skills

By Sgt. Zachary Shumway
2nd Bde., 91st Div. (TS)

Army Reserve "Roughriders" of the 3rd Battalion, 360th Combat Support/Combat Service Support Regiment, deployed to Fort Riley for two weeks annual training the end of August and beginning of September.

They spent the time working to sustain training techniques and assist in training Military Transition Teams.

The "Roughriders'" deployment was the culminating event in a year-long training cycle designed to support its parent unit, the 2nd Brigade, 91st Division (Training Support), the lead training brigade for the MITT mission at Fort Riley.

The "Roughriders'" assistant operations officer, Maj. Kim Johaneck, said, "Our unit is very

excited to be out here training. We started preparing for this mission back in October and continued training each consecutive drill weekend."

Maj. Gregory Wooten, "Roughriders" operations officer, said the year-long training cycle included a trip to the Utah Testing and Training Range in October. While there, the battalion practiced running combat patrol live-fire and practice exercise lanes.

Unit used Dugway grounds to improve convoy skills

In April and May this year, the "Roughriders" were at the Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah to improve their convoy practice lane skills, including how to react to improvised explosive devices and ambushes.

Wooten said the Salt Lake City-based battalion was unable to get some of the necessary training it needed because they are so far away from any large Army base.

"Our first week we got here, we spent getting training that is harder for us to get at our home station. We got training on Blue Force Tracker, Counter-IED technology, Combat Life Saver and Crew Served Weapons Ranges," he said.

Johaneck noted the importance of training on the specific tasks and seeing how the MITTs are training. "It makes you a better trainer to know what the people you are training are being taught," he said.

Following their week of specialized training, the "Roughriders" became the trainers. They began by training MITT Soldiers on Convoy Patrol Live-Fire and

Practice Exercise Lanes. "This is the first time we have been able to train another unit. When we trained previously, we just trained internally, and it's hard to get experience," Johaneck explained.

The "Roughriders" have spent this training year focusing on battalion-level training but according to unit leaders, that concept will change for 2007.

Smaller teams will take on training in 2007

The plan for 2007 is to "break it down into the team levels," Johaneck said. These smaller teams would then take the "training we have learned and continue with it so we can send that team to support a U.S. Army Reserve or National Guard unit," he said.

Wooten said the training done

at Fort Riley will improve "Roughrider" Soldiers and give them a basic knowledge of what transition teams will see when they go into theater.

"We are trying to develop our Soldiers to enhance that combat patrol live-fire package we send out," he said.

"What I think is so exciting about this training is that it is our first opportunity to train people going to Iraq," Johaneck said.

"This training gives us validity to train the units we have back on our drill weekend," he added.

Johaneck said the unit would continue to refine training techniques learned at Fort Riley after their return to Salt Lake City.

Their focus during upcoming drill weekends will remain on convoy live-fire exercises as the "Roughrider" mission to train deploying units continues, he said.

Post, Army news briefly

Army offers \$1,000 reward

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the larceny of a Samsung 50-inch plasma TV, serial number PPM50H3QX/XAA, Smart Symposium monitor, serial number DTF-510AUB/01, and Samsung speakers, serial number 5FCFA008311.

The government property was stolen between 11 a.m. on July 26 and 4:30 p.m. July 25 from the Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, conference room on Fort Riley.

Anyone with information should call 239-3308.

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'Kodiaks' prepare for next deployment

Story and photos
By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

"Boom," shouted 2nd Lt. Karl Davis, his voice carrying in the wind across a field to the ears of four "Kodiak" Soldiers.

In front of Davis, three Soldiers of the 3rd Platoon, Company C, 70th Engineer Battalion, dropped into the knee-high grass in the middle of a "mine field." The fourth Soldier dropped to the road next to the field.

"Your legs are blown off," Davis, an observer/controller for the field exercise, yelled, pointing at the closest Soldier. "And your pinky finger," he added as an afterthought.

The Soldiers lying in the mine field were at Pygmy Village Sept. 15 as part of a two-week Sapper Stakes field exercise to prepare the "Kodiak" Soldiers for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom next year.

From the road, Spec. Richard Giroux Jr., began the painstaking task of probing his way through the minefield to his wounded buddy. Belly crawling through the grass, Giroux gently inserted a probe into the dirt around him before scooting closer.

Once reaching his buddy, Giroux passed the tool to the "wounded" Soldier so he could finish probing around himself.

From across the field, the voice of the pair's squad leader rang out.

"Are you dead or probing without legs?" yelled Sgt. Adam Oliff to the Soldiers.

Probing without legs, came the response from across the field, as the "wounded" Soldier inserted the probe into the possibly lethal dirt in front of him.

"HOOAH!" yelled the squad leader, his head peeking through the waving grass as he encouraged his squad members on.

As soon as the Soldiers managed to extract themselves from the field, their next task began.

Clearing the field

"You have to have a very disciplined group of individuals, a very disciplined team," Davis said, explaining the process the engineers used to extract themselves from the mine field and search for other mines.

On the road in front of the squad's "Humvee," a strip of turned up dirt interrupted the otherwise packed ground.

Armed with a metal detector, Giroux began sweeping it across the overturned dirt. A foot or two into the strip, the detector started its whine, signaling the presence of something metal. Grabbing a pen from his pocket, he gently tossed it to the dirt, marking the spot.

Next up, another Soldier moved forward, easing himself to the dirt near the pen that marked his objective. With two fingers of each hand, he gently swept away the loose dirt exposing the edge of a metal canister.

The mine field incident was just one that the "Kodiak" squad experienced that day. Before making it to the mine field, the Soldiers made their way through

Pygmy Village, clearing and securing three buildings. After clearing the road, the Soldiers slipped on leather gloves, pounded in metal post pickets and set up a triple strand concertina wire obstacle across the southern road leading into the village.

Soldiers train, get to know each other

Besides practicing the area clearance skills they'll put to work while deployed to Afghanistan, the Soldiers spent their time in the field getting to know one another.

Davis estimated about eight of the Soldiers in his platoon had deployed with the "Kodiaks" last year, returning to Fort Riley earlier this year.

"A lot of them are young but now, through those experiences and obviously promotions, they're being able to step up to new leadership positions and do some great things," he said of the Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans.

Oliff, who deployed last year with the "Kodiaks," but has only been with Company C for about two weeks, said about 90 percent of his guys are straight out of initial training. "We're all new to each other, so our main purpose is team building," he said of the group's time in the field.

Having a group of new Soldiers can be good and bad, Oliff said.

"Every detail has to be covered, not like guys who we deployed with and you say 'hey go cover that for me' and they automatically know what their responsibilities are... But at the same time," Oliff added, "they (the new Soldiers) don't have any bad habits."

Learning how to work together is just what training exercises are for, though. This two-week exercise is one step in the Soldiers' training, one step to help build the Soldiers' skills.

"This is primarily focused on small unit tactics and making sure our lower-level leaders are squared away and building our teams up from the bottom," Oliff said.



Spec. James Welsh, Co. C, 70th Eng. Bn., runs out of his hiding spot in Pygmy Village Sept. 15 as the Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, Co. C, 70th Eng. Bn., advance on his position.

Learning the ropes

In October, the "Kodiaks" will head back to the field to do the same types of training at a platoon level instead of as squads. "So we're starting at the base, building up everyone's tactics," Oliff said. "Plus, we just got a lot of new guys right out of basic, so all this is new to them."

Pvt. Marcus Wiley was one of the Soldiers fresh out of initial training and in the field that day.

He said being in the field with his new battalion wasn't much different from his earlier training.

"I've been training, now I get here and I'm still training; only I get to go home at night and do what I want," he said.

"It's different because you know you're working with these people for however long you're going to be in the Army, so you try to get to know them quicker and better, trying to work as a team," he went on.

One of the challenges faced by the new Soldiers is "maybe not knowing some of the stuff that other people know," Wiley admitted.

"If they tell you to do something, you should know how to go out there and do it. Some people get nervous. I do my best," he said.

Besides team building, the squads also worked on the basics of Soldiering.

"Our main purpose is team

building. I think beyond that our biggest goal right now is getting guys in the mindset as far as basics of Soldiering, like muzzle awareness, finger off the trigger, things like that," Oliff said. "They learned the first elements of that at basic training and now it needs to be reinforced into them."

Anna Morelock can be contacted at anna.morelock@riley.army.mil or 239-3032.



Above: Sgt. Adam Oliff (bottom left) briefs the Soldiers in his squad before heading off to Pygmy Village Sept. 15.

At left: Soldiers from 3rd Plt., Co. C, 70th Eng. Bn., lift concertina wire onto metal post pickets while building a triple strand concertina wire obstacle during their field exercise Sept. 15. The Soldiers, many of whom are new to the battalion, will deploy in support of OEF next year.

At right: Spec. Richard Giroux Jr., 3rd Plt., Co. C, 70th Eng. Bn., uses a metal detector to search a patch of loose dirt on the edge of the road.





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Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, September 22, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Page 13

Community news briefly

FRG funds class offered

The Soldier and Family Support Center will offer a Funds Custodian Class from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 18 to assist all Family Readiness Group fund custodians.

A new regulation governs FRGs and many of the changes affect the funds. The class will cover major changes and give fund custodians instructions on setting up income statements and monthly ledgers.

Pre-registration is required to attend.

Free child care will be available but parents must bring their child's shot record. Call 239-9435 to register.

Chapel plans Hallelujah Night

The Morris Hill Chapel Gospel Service congregation plans to sponsor Hallelujah Night from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31.

The post-wide fall festival will take place at Morris Hill Chapel as an alternative to Halloween and trick or treating. The festival will provide a safe environment for kids to have fun with family and friends. Free food, games, inflatables and lots of fun for the whole family is planned.

For more information, call Morris Hill Chapel at 239-4814.

Thrift Shop sets sidewalk sale

The Fort Riley Thrift Shop staff is cleaning out the store's closets, and that means great deals for shoppers at a sidewalk sale 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 5.

The Fort Riley Thrift Shop is located in Building 267 on Stuart Avenue.

Applications for the store's fall community distributions of profits are available at the store. Applications may be picked up during normal Thrift Shop hours: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month.

Distributions will be announced at the November Community Action Council meeting.

For more information, call the Thrift Shop at (785) 784-3874.

JCHS program to help parents

The Junction City High School Fine Arts and Human Services and the Science, Engineering and Technology Academies will conduct a Learning Communities Night from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 27.

Parents are invited to attend sessions on ways to support struggling readers, money management, nutrition and the brain, Internet research and support for Special Education/English Language Learners in the English classroom.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Something new



Nicole Garcia tries to choose one of the selections of fresh sushi prepared by John (left) and Katie Kyaw at the new sushi bar at the post commissary.

Commissary opens 'No. 1' sushi bar

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

A fresh new product in the Fort Riley Commissary is growing in popularity, reports deli and bakery manager Kay White.

The new sushi bar has become so popular in its two months at Fort Riley, it is ranked No. 1 in sales of all the sushi bars already started in Army and Air Force commissaries controlled by Special Markets Inc.

Special Markets is the contracted provider for deli and bakery services in commissaries throughout the Midwest region, including Air Force bases in Missouri and Nebraska, McConnell AFB in

Kansas, all Colorado military installations, some in Texas, Forts Leavenworth and Kansas and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Word of mouth is spreading the news about the new sushi bar run by John and Katie Kyaw. Good comments about the sushi products available in the commissary deli section brought Nicole Garcia to the counter Sept. 14.

"I've never had sushi," she admitted, "but I've heard compliments about it, so I wanted to try it. I'm having a candle party for a couple of women and thought it would be nice to have something different to serve."

Katie helped her pick out a sampler package and a good dipping sauce for what it contained.

Most people unfamiliar with sushi think it is raw fish, but sushi means rice and vinegar, John explained. The sticky rice and vinegar is wrapped around centers of vegetables and raw or cooked fish. Some of the sushi is wrapped in seaweed. Some is wrapped in rice paper, he added.

Fort Riley's sushi bar offers several kinds of sushi, including raw and cooked fish varieties.

"Our most popular sushi is California rolls," John said. A California roll contains imitation crab, avocado, cucumber and sesame seeds rolled in the rice.

Ingredients in other sushi available at the Fort Riley Commissary include real

See Sushi, Page 15

Picerne hosts family carnival on post

By Beth Ernst

Communications Manager
Picerne Military Housing

"It's really all free?" asked many of the families that attended the Picerne Military Housing Carnival Sept. 16 at Jefferson Elementary School on post.

"I can't believe you guys did all this," exclaimed one resident with a happy and exhausted young carnival-goer in hand.

The carnival included games for all ages, prizes, raffles, information, lots of food and music. The clowns and stilt walkers were a big hit, making children of all ages laugh and enjoy themselves.

Kim Wagenblast, a Fort Riley resident and Picerne employee, showed off her talents as a balloon artist. Everyone who wanted a special balloon shape received one.

Each neighborhood office put together games they thought their families would enjoy.



Children of on-post families test their hoola-hoop skills at the carnival sponsored by Picerne Military Housing staff Sept. 16 at Jefferson Elementary School.

The carnival will be an annual event for Picerne Military Housing. "We loved holding this event for the families, to welcome them and thank them for helping us get

off to a good start after our transition on July 1," said John Pearsall, community management director for Picerne.

Other Fort Riley agencies sup-

ported the carnival with information tables. They provided handouts and brochures on services

See Carnival, Page 15

Contestant to win family dinner, trip to New York City

By Bonnie Powell
DeCA

FORT LEE, Va. — A military family will win a trip to New York and a special dinner courtesy of a worldwide contest to draw attention to "Family Day — A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children."

Created by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, "Family Day" is the fourth Mon-

day of September each year. This year it falls on Sept. 25.

CASA research indicates that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use drugs. They also tend to get better grades.

Last year, 1.3 million Americans "pledged" to have dinner with their children on Family Day.

"The military community certainly has a strong sense of fam-

ily dinner cooked by Sandra Lee, best-selling author and host of the Food Network show "Semi-Homemade with Sandra Lee." Lee's latest cookbook, "Semi-Homemade Grilling," will be awarded to second-place winners.

Commissary patrons can go to the DeCA Web site at <http://www.commissaries.com> to access links to the contest, make a "symbolic" pledge to have a family dinner on Sept. 25, get more

information about Family Day, or find healthy recipes. The contest is open until Sept. 30.

"This is a unique event for us," said Doug McAlister, director of the Coca-Cola worldwide military sales team. "Coca-Cola is the national corporate sponsor of Family Day, but the military sales team is taking it a step further for the benefit of the entire military

See Contest, Page 15

Open house shows new, old

Family fun run among added attractions

Staff report

"Riley," the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation's big blue bear of a mascot, will lead this year's Apple Day and open house participants on a 1-mile fun run around historic Main Post Sept. 30.

After the run, community members and post families can enjoy all sorts of activities from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Main Post. The demonstrations and activities are set up to showcase Fort Riley's Soldiers, capabilities and support systems, such as family readiness groups, as well as the post's rich history, said event organizer Brad Carlton.

Besides letting the community in on what goes on at Fort Riley, the event will be helpful for the many new families who arrived on post this summer. Carlton said the event will be a sort of one-stop shop where families can find out what kinds of activities they can become involved in on post and where they can help out.

Each year, organizers try to add a few new things to Apple Day, Carlton said. This year, with the perennial apple pie sales and expo tent, Apple Day goes will see an attack helicopter from the post's new Combat Aviation Brigade, a roving magician and the Kansas State University juggling club.

At 9:30 a.m., Fort Riley will honor the post's fallen Soldiers with a rededication of its Global War on Terrorism monument near Cavalry Parade Field.

Attractions at the open house will include technology and capabilities demonstrations, equipment displays, hands-on interactive activities, entertainment, historical tours and food and beverage concessions.

...

Specific attractions include:

Fun Run: The Open House will kick-off with a family fun run at the Old Bill statue at 8:30 a.m. Entry is free. The route will take runners on a 1-mile loop of historic Main Post.

Apple Pie Sales: The Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley will sell frozen whole pies and baked slices of pies from the B-side of Custer House.

Expo Tent: Features a look at Soldier training and readiness, support links for Soldiers and their families, diverse and dynamic quality of life programs and activities, and community partnership agencies. The Expo Tent is located under a large canopy on Cavalry Parade Field.

Historical Tours: U.S. Cavalry Museum, the newly re-opened

See Apple Day, Page 14





Community news briefly

Family program plans kickball

The Exceptional Family Member Program, New Parent Support Program and Youth Sports Program staffs invite parents bring their children up to age 12 play a game of kickball to start the fall season.

Games will be played from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Sept. 28 in the back yard of the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264, weather permitting. Call 239-9435 by noon Sept. 27 to RSVP.

Gymnastics classes offered

Gymnastics classes are offered Monday through Wednesday evenings at the Teen Center for \$35 monthly. The exhibition team meets on Thursdays for \$45 monthly.

For more information, call Central Enrollment Registry at 239-4847.

Singers to host workshop

The JC Singers at Junction City High School will sponsor a "Sing and Dance" workshop from 8 a.m. to noon Oct. 14 for students in grades 4-8.

Workshop participants will receive a hat they will wear in a performance at the JCHS fall choral concert Oct. 17.

The \$10 enrollment fee covers costs of music and materials.

For more information, call the JCHS vocal music aide at 717-4263 or Mary Louise Stahl, JCHS vocal music instructor, at 717-4262.

Enlisted spouses club to meet

Fort Riley's Enlisted Spouses' Club will conduct its first general membership meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Armed Services YMCA, 111 E. 16th St., in Junction City.

Becky Willis, representing the Army Family Team Building and Family Advocacy Program, will be the speaker. Members can play BUNCO after the meeting.

Dues will still be discounted at \$10 for the year. Child care is offered on a donation basis. Contact Amy Scarpulla at 717-2753 or send e-mail to ascarpulla@gmail.com by Sept. 25 to reserve a child care spot.

For more information, visit www.fortrileyes.net on the Web.

Apple Day

continued from page 13

1st Infantry Division Museum, A-side of Custer House, St. Mary's Chapel and self-guided walking tours of historic Main Post.

A Walk Through History: The Public Affairs Office will set up a tent with photographs, videos and music depicting America's military history from World War I through the Global War on Terrorism.

Emergency Equipment Display: Police response teams, military working dogs (demonstrations at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

and 2 p.m.), emergency medical and fire rescue will be on display.

Army Recruiters: Active duty, Army Reserve, National Guard and ROTC recruiters will feature interactive displays and attractions.

Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard: A living history mid-1800s cavalry encampment will feature authentic tents, period equipment, uniforms and horses. Demonstrations of equestrian skills and saber drills at scheduled times (11 a.m.

and 1 p.m.). Wagon rides will be offered throughout the day.

Period Re-enactors: Re-enactors and period entertainers will demonstrate pioneer and military skills appropriate to the era.

Live Entertainment: Bands will play on stage at the parade field throughout the day, including the 1st Infantry Division Band. The band Main Street will perform from 10 a.m. to noon. A Little Bit County, an all-Soldier band, will perform from 1 to 3 p.m.

Children's Activities: Inflatable attractions, carnival rides, face painting, jugglers and cyclists are some of the many activities geared toward children.

Obstacle Course: Children can don camouflage face paint and negotiate a series of obstacles en route to a final objective.

Tactical Vehicle, Aircraft and Weapons Display: Interactive displays of modern military equipment and weapons systems will feature Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

and Combat Aviation Brigade who will explain systems capabilities and assist visitors in and through the displays.

Flyover: Combat aircraft will conduct a low-altitude flyover of the Open House site.

Weapons Firing: Using blank ammunition, visitors will have an opportunity to fire an array of military weapons to engage pop-up targets at various distances.

The event is open to the public. Visitors can enter the installation via Exit 301 off I-70.

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Contest continued from page 13

community. Conducting the contest online gives military retirees, Guard/Reserve and active duty a chance to enter, whether they are in Germany or Guam, Illinois or Iraq."

Being the eldest of five children, Sandra Lee said she appreciates the importance of family dinners. "Growing up in a small town in Washington state, we always

ate dinners together," she said. "It gave us a chance to talk about school, our day – and I think it made a difference in my life."

Lee specializes in meals made by spicing up everyday, store-bought products. "We requested she prepare a healthy meal for the winner, and she agreed immediately," McAlister said.

Coincidentally, Sandra Lee is

working on a new cookbook for 2007 that focuses on light and healthy cooking.

"That is certainly the trend for America right now," she said. "People have busy lives and not a lot of time to spend on cooking, but there isn't any reason light and healthy meals can't also be fast and delicious," she said.



Photo by Jenni Mason

10th ASOS grows by 3 babies in 3 days

Three U.S. Air Force families of the 10th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Riley show off the three baby girls they added to the organization's "family" on three consecutive days in July. From left are Staff Sgt. Mars Hinton with wife, Crystal, and daughter, Charity, born July 27; Staff Sgt. Chris Mason with wife, Jenni, and daughter, Abigail, born July 28; and Staff Sgt. Edgar Rodriguez with wife, Gretchen, and daughter, Mia, born July 29. Lt. Col. Pete Iversen commands the 10th ASOS.



Family harmony

Robert Swenson (right), president of the Little Apple Barbershop Chorus in Manhattan, Kans., tells his grandson, Mason, about a favorite hymn, as Brian Swenson, Robert's son and Mason's father, looks on. The three generations were among 40 singers, including a Soldier and an Airman, who presented patriotic selections during six worship services at Fort Riley chapels Sep. 17.

Photo by Chap. Schwartz

Carnival continued from page 13

available for all Fort Riley residents.

More than 60 Picerne employees helped make sure everyone had an enjoyable time. Brian Beauregard, Picerne's program director, used his bullhorn to round up people for hula-hoop contests, prize give-aways and dancing with the stilt walkers. Prizes included gift certificates to shop at the PX, a local restau-

rant and department store and passes to the post movie theater and Manhattan's Sunset Zoo.

About 1,200 residents enjoyed the day with everyone receiving prizes.

"We had a great time today and look forward to seeing everyone again at each neighborhood office's ice cream social from 3 to 5 p.m. Sept. 27," a Picerne representative said.

Sushi continued from page 13

crabmeat, fish roe, tuna, salmon, shrimp, and carrots.

The sushi bar is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. John and Kaitie will be behind the counter, making the sushi fresh daily, even as customers stand and watch.

Mike Heronemus can be contacted at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or 239-8854.

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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, September 22, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Page 17

Sports news in brief

ITR offers Chiefs tickets

The Fort Riley Information, Ticketing and Registration Office has tickets for several Kansas City Chiefs home football games.

Tickets for the game and coach bus transportation to each game are \$70 and \$85.

Tickets are available for the game against the San Francisco 49ers Oct. 1, the San Diego Chargers Oct. 22 and the Seattle Seahawks Oct. 29.

ITR is located across the parking lot from the Main PX. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call 239-5614.

Outdoor rec changes hours

The Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation Center changed its hours of operation for fall and winter. It will be closed Sunday and Monday and open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Field house activities listed

Sept. 25 – 9 a.m., Spinning; 12:15-12:45 p.m., Target Tone; 6 p.m., Cardio Pump-Step Aerobics

Sept. 26 – Noon, Hip Hop Aerobics; 6 p.m., Spinning

Sept. 27 – 9 a.m., Turbo Kick

Sept. 28 – 6:30 a.m., Spinning; 9 a.m., Spinning; noon, Hip Hop Aerobics

Sept. 29 – 9 a.m., Turbo Kick; 12:15 p.m., Target Tone; 6 p.m., Cardio Kickboxing

For more information, call 239-2813.

Pool classes, activities listed

Sept. 25 – 5:45-6:30 p.m., Abs/Buns & Thighs

Sept. 26 – 9:30-10:30 a.m., Water Aerobics; 5-6 p.m., Water Aerobics

Sept. 27 – 5:45-6:30 p.m., Abs/Buns & Thighs

Sept. 28 – 9:30-10:30 a.m., Water Aerobics; 5-6 p.m., Water Aerobics

For more information, call 239-4854.

Custer Hill Lanes events listed

Custer Hill lanes is open daily for lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sept. 23 – 4 to 7 p.m., Family Time Extreme Bowling

Sept. 23-24 – 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., Extreme Bowling

Sept. 24 – 4 to 6 p.m., Family Time Extreme Bowling

Sept. 27 – 5 to 7 p.m., Wing Night in the Bar

Sept. 29 – 5 to 8 p.m., Family Night with Bowling and Buffet

Custer Hill Bowling Center, Building 7485, offers open bowling 5 to 11 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 5 to 10 p.m. Fridays and 3 to 11 p.m. Saturdays.

For more information about Bowling Center activities, call 239-4366.

3 Soldiers win Pan-Am selection

USAMU and USA Shooting

KERRVILLE, Texas (Army News Service) – Three Soldiers of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga., are halfway to the 2007 Pan-American Games.

At the USA Shooting Fall Selection Match Sept. 6-13, USAMU shotgun shooter Sgt. 1st Class Shawn C. Dulohery won the

Men's Open Skeet Match. Spc. Joshua M. Richmond dominated in the Men's Open Double Trap Match and Sgt. 1st Class Theresa E. DeWitt took the Women's Trap Match.

The Soldiers are in first place in the U.S. team selection process for the 2007 World Clay Target Championships and Pan-American Games.

The Pan-American Games will

take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 13-29. The Games include an Olympic-style shooting championship conducted every four years for the western hemisphere.

Shooters can win medals and set world records at the Pan-American Games, but the Games is the last chance for western hemisphere shooters to win quota slots to compete for their countries in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

In the men's skeet competition, Dulohery, a 2004 Olympian, took home the crown after shooting a 263 total score, including a 25-point final round.

Following close in second place, Randal McLelland also shot 25 in the finals. He was leading the event on Day One of competition, beating Dulohery by two

points; but on Day Two, Dulohery made up the difference by three.

Junior phenomenon and 2006 International Shooting Sport Federation Athlete of the Year Army Reserve Pvt. Vincent Hancock finished third. His total score of 261 tied McLelland and led to the events' first shoot-off. McLelland finished just two points ahead of

See USAMU, Page 23

Running room



The Co. A, 610th BSB, quarterback finds a little daylight between Co. F, 610th BSB, players Sept. 19 to squirm through the defense for a gain in the first quarter of the game. Co. F through a completed pass on the second down of the game to score the first touchdown, but lost 24-18.

Post/Heronemus

610th BSB companies battle for win

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Victory came on the last play of the first game Sept. 19, and Company A, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, sipped its flavor after Company F, 610th BSB, had turned the taste of assured victory to vinegar a few plays earlier.

The teams met in Sturgis Stadium on Main Post in the 6 p.m. Western League game on opening night of company level flag football. Forty-eight plays later, Co. A walked off the field with a 24-18 win.

Co. A started the final quarter's 12 plays with a 12-6 lead that quickly increased by six points. On the first play from scrimmage on their own 20-yard line, Co. A

combined a long pass with a long run after the reception to score a touchdown and take the lead 18-6.

Trying the game's only point after touchdown attempt from 10 yards out, Co. A failed to complete the conversion and settled for what some of its players said was the end of the game.

Co. F gained 10 yards on their first play of the final quarter, then failed to complete two consecutive passes, giving some credence to boasting on the Co. A sideline.

Co. F had faced fourth down situations earlier in the game and had always elected to kick the ball away. This time, they lined up on their 30-yard line and went for the first down just 10 yards away.

The quarterback scampered right before

passing to a receiver running along the right sideline. The runner caught the ball and made it to the Co. A 10-yard line before getting caught.

It was first down and goal to go, and the Co. F quarterback spotted a receiver in the endzone and flipped a completed pass that diminished Co. A's lead to 18-12. A Co. A defender knocked down the PAT pass attempt right at the goal line, and Co. A took control of the ball again.

Co. A combined a run and two forward passes to move the ball to about their 30-yard line on the first down play, but a penalty moved them back to their own 15-yard line. First down again and the Co. F

See Flag football, Page 23

Mighty oak not biggest, but strongest

By Alan Hynck

Fish and wildlife biologist

The mighty oak is the cornerstone of the forest, with its longevity and gracefulness as a testament to its status. While not always the biggest tree, it is often revered as the strongest, not only in hardness of its wood, but in its benefit to society and wildlife.

Ten species of oak can be found in Kansas. With the exception of bur oak, the eastern third of Kansas is the only area of the state where the other nine occur with any frequency. The only two that occur naturally on Fort Riley are chinquapin and bur oak, although a few others have been planted throughout Main Post.

On the Wildside: News About Nature



Alan Hynck

Oaks are divided into two groups, the red and white. Two readily apparent differences distinguish the groups. The white oaks have leaves without bristles and can produce acorns every year. The red oaks, on the other hand, have bristle tips on the leaves and generally only produce acorns every two years.

Kansas oaks that belong to the white group include bur, chinquapin, white and post. The red oaks found in Kansas are black, Shumard, red, blackjack, shingle and pin.

Oaks can hybridize with other species in their group, which can make identification of a single tree difficult.

Over the years, oak has served many purposes. It has been used for nearly everything that requires durability and strength. It also is well-known for making beautiful furniture that will last many generations.

Although modern materials have replaced many of its uses, a number of uses for oak cannot be

equaled. For instance, the cork oak of Europe is, as its name implies, the source of cork. Barrel staves used in fermenting whiskey and wine are still made of oak. And, it is darned hard to beat a good hardwood floor made of oak.

Historically, the mighty oak has stood as a sentinel on the plains as a reference point to passersby. The Council Oak and Post Office Oak in Council Grove are historic landmarks. Both served their part in the taming of the west. The Council Oak was used as a meeting place for locals and was a site for a treaty with the Native Americans. The Post Office Oak was used by immigrants on the

See Mighty oak, Page 18

Texas squeaks past Army, 28-24

Army Athletic Comm.

SAN ANTONIO (Army News Service) – Texas A&M's defense stopped Tony Moore on a third-and-goal play with nine seconds remaining Sept. 16 to sneak out of the Alamodome with a 28-24 victory in the AT&T Corps Classic.

Jorvorski Lane rushed for 101 yards and three touchdowns, and Stephen McGee gained 142 yards on the ground as the Aggies hung on to defeat a spirited Army team in front of a sellout crowd of 64,583 spectators.

The game was tightly contested throughout and was not decided until Texas A&M's defense stopped Moore. With no timeouts remaining, Army watched as Aggie players and coaches stormed onto the field as time expired.

Lane's third touchdown of the game, a 4-yard burst up the middle with 6:29 to play in the third quarter, proved to be the deciding score.

The game, which featured three ties, was knotted 14-14 at halftime. The momentum appeared to swing in the Aggies' favor early in the second half when Devin Gregg intercepted David Pevoto's pass on the first play of the half's opening drive. The Aggies made the Black Knights pay as quarterback Stephen McGee connected with Chad Schroeder on a 46-yard touchdown pass.

Army was forced to punt on its next possession, but the Black Knights regained the ball at the Texas A&M 38-yard line when Aggie return-man Schroeder fumbled it away. Army scored four plays later to tie the game at 21-all on Wesley McMahon's nifty 21-yard run for his second touchdown run of the game.

Army pulled to within 28-24 late in the fourth quarter on Austin Miller's 36-yard field goal, but that was as close as the Black Knights would get.

Army's final drive was set up by its defense, which stuffed Lane on a fourth-and-one play. The Black Knights, who took over possession of the ball at the 27-yard line following the turnover on downs, drove the ball deep into Aggie territory and had a first-and-goal on the 2-yard line after a pass interference penalty against Texas A&M on a fourth down pass attempt.

Army had three cracks at the end zone but came up empty.

Texas A&M took an early 7-0 lead as the Aggies took the opening kickoff and marched 80 yards on 10 plays, taking the initial lead of the game on Lane's 1-yard touchdown run.

Army came right back with a 75-yard touchdown drive of its own. McMahon capped the scor-

See Aggies, Page 18





A.F.F./Tolmann

U.S. Military Academy football team members streak onto the turf at the Alamodome prior to the AT&T Corps Classic Saturday.

Aggies continued from page 17

ing surge with his first career touchdown – a 6-yard scamper around the left side of the offensive line.

Following a 13-yard punt off the foot of Justin Brantly, Army was set up at the Aggie 43-yard line. The Black Knights did not waste time taking advantage of the excellent field position as junior wide receiver Corey Anderson took the ball on a reverse and scampered 43 yards for his first collegiate rushing touchdown. The score delivered Army its first lead of the contest at 14-7 with 11:07 remaining in the second

quarter.

The see-saw battle continued as Texas A&M tied the score at 14-14 with a 79-yard scoring drive, capped by Lane's second one-yard touchdown run of the evening. Aggie quarterback Stephen McGee's 36-yard run helped set up the game-tying score.

Neither team was able to penetrate the end zone during the final 7:11 of the first half and headed into halftime with the score knotted at 14-14.

McMahand finished with 68 yards rushing on 14 carries. Pev-

to completed the contest with 17 of 32 passes for a career-high 136 yards. Mike Viti carried the ball a career-high six times for a career-high 46 yards. Walter Hill and Jeremy Trimble each caught five passes for 48 yards.

The crowd of 64,583 spectators was the largest to witness a regular season college football game at the Alamodome, and the eighth largest football crowd in Alamodome history.

Army returns to action at 7 p.m. Sept. 23 when the Black Knights travel to Waco, Texas, to battle Baylor.

Army, Texas A&M share tradition

By Michael Tolzmann

AAF Hometown News Service

SAN ANTONIO (Army News Release) – In a see-saw battle for victory, Texas A&M beat Army's Black Knights before a sold-out crowd in the AT&T Corps Classic Sept. 16 at the Alamodome.

The game pitted players from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point against the Aggies of Texas A&M University. Despite Army's defeat, the game was a success in bringing together two schools steeped in military tradition.

Texas A&M commissions more ROTC cadets as officers than any other U.S. university.

"This game is to showcase scholars and athletes. It also illustrates the firm commitment of Americans while the country is at war," said Gen. Richard A. Cody, Army Vice Chief of Staff.

"The Army is about teamwork. Football teams have the same thing. These two great institutions enjoy a great history and tradition with their cadet corps. Many here today will leave their football uniforms to wear the Army uniform," Cody said.

"A couple of months after they graduate, they could be serving overseas in the war zone," said Capt. Gene Palka, battalion fire support officer with the 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, at Fort Hood, Texas. Palka is a West Point graduate and served in Iraq from 2003 to 2004.

Before the game, Cody predicted Army would surprise A&M. The 27-point Army academy underdog did just that, proving they can compete with a national powerhouse like A&M.

"Being here today brings us a reality that we're a real part of college football," said West Point Spirit Band member Cadet Lt. Dustin McGriffin.

The day was filled with Army-related events that kicked off with a parade featuring more than 2,000 West Point and A&M cadets, their bands and Texas-based Soldiers. Thousands of fans lined the streets to see the pageantry and precision of marching cadets and Soldiers.

More than 600 West Point cadets marched onto the field in pre-game ceremonies as more than 64,500 fans filled the dome.



A.F.F./Tolmann

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody stands at mid-field as he commissions into the Army officer ranks Kevin Lawhon of Austin, Texas, and Michelle Campos of San Antonio, both graduates of Texas A&M's ROTC program.

Bands played, athletes ran warm-up sprints and the crowd made a roaring thunder as 30 new south-Texas enlistees took the oath of enlistment from the Army's No. 2 man.

"This was a reaffirmation of their recent enlistments – in front of God and country," said U.S. Army San Antonio Recruiting Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Rene Brown, following the oath of enlistment administered by Cody at the 50-yard line.

While Cody's allegiance is for his alma mater at West Point, Cody also embraces the Aggies. His two sons are Army officers and graduates of Texas A&M.

Cody later stood at mid-field and commissioned Kevin Lawhon of Austin, Texas, and Michelle Campos of San Antonio, both graduates of Texas A&M's ROTC program, into the Army officer ranks.

"These schools develop young leaders. They are both great places to do so," Cody said of West Point and Texas A&M.

HAIR EXPERTS

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Mighty oak continued from page 17

Santa Fe Trail to etch names and messages for later travelers.

Oaks are part of the beech family, which is probably one of the most important families of trees, commercially and aesthetically.

One member of the beech family is the American chestnut, which has been nearly wiped out by the introduced chestnut blight.

This magnificent tree made up a good portion of the eastern deciduous forest. Its hard heavy wood was used for nearly every-

thing.

Today, only a few of these trees survive, although selective breeding may provide a resistant variety in the future.

Nearly all of the species of oak are long-lived and it is not uncommon for them to reach 250 years of age. Interestingly, some of the oldest forests in the eastern United States are found in the Cross Timbers area of south central Kansas.

This old man of the forest provides us with many beneficial

uses, but to wildlife there is none better suited.

The sturdy branches and abundance of acorns is a haven for many species of wildlife.

Without argument, the mighty oak has and always will be the cornerstone of the forest.

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Sports news briefly

Aikido classes offered

Aikido instruction will be offered by Daniel Hayes from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays in Long Fitness Center on Custer Hill. All Soldiers and Department of Defense family members 18 and older can participate. For more information, call Sgt. William Kinsman at 239-5716 or staff members at King Field House or send e-mail to william.kinsman@riley.army.mil.

Private firearms range open

Fort Riley's Range 9 for privately owned firearms is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for use on weekends by authorized patrons. Confirmed open dates are Sept. 24, weather permitting. The range may be open other days or those confirmed dates may change. Anyone wanting to use the range should first check with Outdoor Rec at 239-2249 to confirm the range is open.

Outdoor rec rents aid

The Outdoor Recreation Center offers a Laser Shot Shooting Simulation System to help hunters improve their shooting. The system can be used for a rental fee of \$5 per person per hour or a group rate of \$15 per half hour or \$25 per hour.

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USAMU

continued from page 17

Hancock to bring home the Silver.

Three-time Olympic medalist Kim Rhode shot a 252 for here win, while double Olympian Connie Smotek and long-time National Team veteran Haley Dunn shot 248 each in the Women's Skeet Match. Smotek and Dunn forced the second shoot-off of the competition, leaving Smotek ahead with 252 and Dunn in third with 251.

Double trap events were led by Richmond, a National Team newcomer, who posted a 332 to finish ahead of Jeff Holguin, a six-year member of the U.S. National Team who shot a 326.

Holguin, who recently enlisted in the Army to join the USAMU, starts Basic Training at Fort Benning Sept. 20.

Following in third was two-time Olympic veteran Glenn Eller, whose score totaled 319, just one point ahead of the fourth-place finisher. Eller, who also recently enlisted for the USAMU, starts Basic Training Sept. 19.

Three-time Olympian and retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Bret E. Erickson captured the Men's Trap title. Holding a tight advantage after Day One, Erickson's lead slipped by only one point in Day Two when Olympic medalist Lance Bade and Air Force Reserve Maj. Dominic Grazioli bested his shots. His lead was not completely diminished, allowing him to pull off a shoot of 23 in the finals to win the title.

Bade and Grazioli were thrust into a shoot-off with Bade coming out in second, leaving Grazioli with the third-place finish.

Cynthia Meyer dominated the field in Day One of the Women's Trap competition. Shooting a 96, she led 1996 Olympian DeWitt, Corey Cogdell and Mimi Wilfong, who were tied for second with 91.

By the finals, DeWitt stood in the winners' circle, followed by USAMU's Sgt. 1st Class Joetta R. Dement and newcomer Cogdell. The third-place finish for Cogdell secured her a position on the Women's Trap National Team for 2007.



Post/Heronemus

A Co. A, 610th BSB, receiver watches the ball fly over his head on a long pass in the third quarter of a Western League company level flag football game against Co. F, BSB, Sept. 19 in Sturgis Stadium on Main Post. Co. A won the game, 24-18.

Flag football

continued from page 17

defense swarmed the quarterback, who pitched a slightly wild ball to another back who juggled it before being swarmed himself.

With Co. F defenders about to grab his flags, the back threw a lob pass forward, right into the hands of a Co. F defender who tucked it in and scampered the necessary few yards to score and tie the game at 18-18.

Another PAT pass attempt failed and Co. A took control of the ball with plays running out.

The Co. A quarterback steered the ball over defenders' arms to a receiver who carried it over mid-field to the Co. F 30-yard line.

A penalty on Co. F moved the ball even closer to the goal line, down to the 15.

Co. A's quarterback kept the ball on the next play and ran around left end to the 3-yard line, setting up the last play of the game.

With all his receivers covered, the quarterback broke for the right side of the field and sprinted an almost straight line to cross the goal line just inside the pylon marker on the sideline, winning the game.

Mike Heronemus can be contacted at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or 239-8854.

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Runners, walkers invited to Wildcat Run

Kansas State University

SALINA, Kan. — Runners and walkers are invited to Salina to pound the pavement for a good cause.

The ninth annual Wildcat Run will be 8 a.m. Sept. 23 in downtown Salina. Sponsored by the Kansas State University at Salina Student Governing Association, proceeds from the run will benefit the Salina Area United Way.

Last year, nearly 90 runners and walkers helped raise money for the United Way, which works to strengthen the local community.

The Wildcat Run includes a 5-kilometer run and 2-mile fun run/walk.

The 15-kilometer run offers awards to the top male and female finishers in each age bracket: 17 and younger; 18-35; 36-55 and 56 and older.

Check-in is between 7 and 7:45 a.m. at the northeast corner of Ash Street and Santa Fe Avenue in downtown Salina. The events begin at 8 a.m.

Entry is \$12 in advance or \$15 the day of the race.

Participants who register in advance receive a T-shirt donated by the K-State-Salina Student Governing Association. Runners and walkers who register the day of the race aren't guaranteed a shirt but may order one for an additional charge.

In case of inclement weather, the Wildcat Run may be postponed. KSAL, 1150 AM in Salina, will provide more information.

Registration is available online at <http://www.salina.k-state.edu/studentlife/wildcatrun/> or by calling the K-State-Salina office of student life at (785) 826-2610.

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Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Friday, September 22, 2006

Leisure time ideas

At the movies:

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under the age of 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

Sept. 23 — Step Up, PG-13, 103 min.

Sept. 24 — The Decent, R, 99 min.

Sept. 28 — Step Up, PG-13, 103 min.

For more information, call 239-9574.

Junction City:

What: Go, Dog! Go, a live theater production with the lovable characters from P.D. Eastman's popular book.

When: 6 p.m., Sept. 26

Where: 700 N. Jefferson St., JC Municipal Building

Admission: Free — however, tickets are necessary and must be picked up in advance of the show at the Junction City Arts Council, 107 W. Seventh St. or at the Dorothy Bramlage Public Library.

McPherson:

What: Scottish festival. Pipe bands, highland dances, athletic competitions, sheep dogs, folk singer Alex Beaton, masters of the Celtic harp. British car display, children's activities, Celtic food vendors and Falcon exhibit.

When: 7 p.m. Sept. 22, all day Sept. 23 and 9:30 a.m. to late afternoon Sept. 24

Where: Lakeside Park

Admission: Adults \$7 to \$16, children \$1 to \$4, special events cost \$4 to \$10 extra

Phone: (800) 324-8022

Web site: www.mcfestival.org

Clay Center:

What: Potique Fall Festival and Parade. Parade, 10K run/walk, arts and crafts, food booths and kiddie parade.

When: Sept. 30

Where: Downtown

Phone: (785) 632-5674

Web site: http://www.cckansas.org

Paxico:

What: Paxico Blues Festival featuring Kelley Hunt, John Paul and the Flying Circus, Linda Shell and the Blues Thang, and Millages Gilbert.

When: Sept. 23

Where: Downtown Paxico

Phone: (785) 636-5520

Web site: www.paxicomercants.com

Admission: free

Acting naturally

Captain new to going 'Barefoot in the Park'

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Capt. Janine Taylor claims she has no acting experience.

"You wouldn't know it to watch her. She's a natural," said Tim Stuck, director of the upcoming Junction City Little Theatre production of Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park."

Taylor, the S2 for 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, at Fort Riley, plays the mother of the female lead in the comedy about a newlywed couple trying to set up house on the top floor of a New York City brownstone apartment.

"I think I got the part because of my curly hair," Taylor said during a break in rehearsal Sept. 15. Being petite didn't hurt her chances, either, Taylor suggested.

"Getting a part isn't just about looking like the character," she added, but those physical attributes kind of fit the mother character in the play.

Taylor isn't fibbing when she says she doesn't have acting experience, but she did play one of the lead parts in an eighth-grade production that had something to do with Christopher Columbus, she said.

"I think I played the second in command to Columbus. It was a musical," she added.

The captain said she has wanted to try

out for a play for some time, but her previous assignment as a company commander demanded too much of her time to allow that.

With a staff position, she can more easily adjust work and rehearsal time to let her do both without compromising either, she explained.

Taylor has friends who once were involved with a little theater group in Bisbee, Ariz. While she was there she got to experience how they put together

two different shows. She thought then it would be fun to be involved herself.

Getting a part in "Barefoot in the Park" has proved her right.

"The whole experience has been fun, seeing how things are put together," she said.

Taylor said she doesn't have her part polished yet. "I'm not a mother, so I don't know how a mother

would act" if really experiencing the situations Simon presents in the play. So, she's needing some coaching in that area.

"I'm still stumbling over some lines," she admitted, "especially a long one in the first act where I talk about a lot of streets and bridges."

Come opening night, Sept. 28, she'll have all that mastered, Stuck is confident. "She's a natural," he said.

Mike Heronemus can be contacted at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or 239-8854.



Post/Heronemus

Capt. Janine Taylor (left) huffs and tries to catch her breath after climbing several flights of stairs to the top floor brownstone apartment rented by her daughter, Corrie (right) played by Erin Perry, and her new husband, Paul, played by Rick Parsons. It is Taylor's first attempt at little theater, but director Tim Stuck insists "she's a natural." The play opens at 8 p.m. Sept. 28. Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley, will make an appearance as the delivery man on opening night.

Public invited to Konza Prairie

By Sara Shellenberger
Kansas State University

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Visitors can discover the wild beauty of the prairie at Kansas State University's Konza Prairie Biological Station Visitors' Day Sept. 30. Visitors' Day is offered every other year as part of the station's mission to educate the public about prairie habitats.

"Konza has a threefold mission of research, conservation and education," said Eva Horne, interim director of the biological station. "Visitors' Day is an opportunity for people to learn more about the research conducted at the station, how it applies to the world around them and the importance of conserving the endangered and beautiful tallgrass prairie in which they live."

From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., visitors can engage in several activities to create an in-depth prairie experience. Entrance is free, although

some activities have fees. This event is sponsored by K-State's Division of Biology and The Nature Conservancy.

Van and bus tours will take visitors to see the Konza's bison herd and main research areas. These 90-minute tours begin at 8 a.m. and depart every 10 minutes. Tickets are \$3.

Visitors also can view the prairie by wagon. One-hour hay wagon rides are available for \$1 per adult and 50 cents per child. Rides will be offered from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Guided hikes also are available throughout the day, beginning at 8 a.m.

The hikes vary in length from one-half mile to 5 miles.

Hokanson Homestead tours will give visitors a chance to view the educational facility and learn more about educational programs at the Konza Prairie. Tours will be offered every 30 minutes from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$1.

From 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., video presentations will describe the purpose of Konza Prairie, its habitats, the experimental management plan and ongoing ecological research. Presentations will be given every hour in the Konza's Fire Hall.

Displays on prairie plants and animals, prairie history, current research, the effects of fire and grazing and more will be available.

Children can discover the prairie through several programs designed just for them. A schedule of these events will be available at the site's information booth.

Konza Prairie T-shirts, hats, posters, mugs and other items will be for sale from the Friends of Konza Prairie. Books and information about The Nature Conservancy also will be available for purchase.

Museum to teach parents how to share art with kids

By Brandi Eilert
Kansas State University

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Taking children to an art museum doesn't have to bore them anymore. Parents can learn how to engage their children in discussions about visual arts at a workshop coming to Kansas State University's Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art.

The museum will present "Looking at and Talking about Art with Your Child" from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 5. The workshop is free and is made possible by a grant from the Kansas Arts Commission.

The workshop is limited to 15 couples, and child care will be provided. Parents participating in the workshop will learn why talking about art with children is

important, as well as ways of discussing visual arts with kids.

"Looking at art encourages children to think, reason and question," said Kathrine Schlageck, education and public services supervisor at the Beach Museum. "It encourages language literacy, math development and, most of all, it encourages creative expression."

To make reservations, call the museum at (785) 532-7718.

The Beach Museum of Art is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free, and complimentary visitor parking is available adjacent to the facility.

For more information, call (785) 532-7718 or drop by the museum at 14th Street and Anderson Avenue.

You can find the Fort Riley Post online at www.riley.army.mil

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